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yet, the House. Bill number 37 relates to a minimum of supervision by the State Department of Education over private and parochial schools in the matter of teaching English and as to records of truancy. This bill was vigorously opposed by many sincere people and it was deemed wise to discuss it more in detail before asking its passage.

There were then 41 bills before the Legislature recommended by the Commission and by the Joint Legislative Committee. For unavoidable reasons these measures were presented later in the session than had been anticipated and it was readily apparent that something must be sacrificed if the fundamental scheme to promote child welfare was to succeed. Consequently, six measures were temporarily withdrawn from the remainder. The bills withdrawn are, as numbered in the printed report, number 5, relating to the regulation of marriage; numbers 12 and 13, relating to the inheritance of illegitimate children; number 33, a revision of the child labor law; number 34, regulating street trades (a bill which was bitterly opposed by the newspapers and because of which the newspapers in the three large cities unitedly refused to give any substantial editorial comment on that or any other proposals of the Commission), and bill number 29, relating to the tenure of office of the board of women visitors which was met by another bill.

What has been gained by the passage of these new laws? The answer can, of course, be given with more accuracy and better grace after they have been tested in operation. But the outlines are clear. There has been created as a bureau of the Board of Control a regularly organized state agency charged with the fulfillment of the state's obligation to all children in need of care and guardianship, with special reference to the illegitimate child. The laws relating to illegitimacy have been revised and the father of a child born out of wedlock is subject to the same degree of responsibility as though the child were legitimate. Supplementary to this it has been made a felony to abscond where issue is born of fornication. Safeguards have been thrown about the adoption and placing out of children, lying-in hospitals must now be properly licensed and subjected to wise regulation. The law relating to abandonment and non-support has been revised and strengthened. The so called mothers' pension law was re-written, its provisions enlarged and standards of administration established in the light of the experience of our own and other states. The juvenile court law has likewise undergone a thorough process of recasting at the hands of persons intimately acquainted with juvenile court problems. The scope of the law, the machinery of its procedure and the spirit of its text have been put on a sound and liberal foundation.

This is but a flashlight upon the statutes enacted, there are many more and there is much more of importance that might be said about them.

In conclusion it should be noted that the State Legislature treated the whole subject with patience and friendly consideration. To Representative Sherman Childs of the House and Senator Oluf Gjerset of the Senate especial credit is due for their efforts in behalf of this legislation. They have rendered invaluable assistance. The people of the state by financial aid, active work and vital interest have made it possible for Minnesota to have as soundly progressive laws relating to children as will be found on the statute books of any state in the Union.—W. W. HOBSON, Executive Secretary of Commission.

Children in Industry and the Street Trades.—In the Juvenile Protective

Association of Chicago, there is a department dealing with occupations of children and young people. Since the last annual report, compiled October 1915, 598 complaints have come to this department. These complaints fall into two groups: first, a comparatively small number of cases which came to our notice of children and young girls employed under prohibited conditions in industry; second, a large number of cases of children found in street trades.

Factory Cases.—The number of industrial complaints is naturally small, such complaints usually going directly to the Factory Inspection Department. Those which come to us are transferred to that department and followed up to insure action. "Billy" Thompson, booker of children in "Walkin' the Dog" contests, was prosecuted at the instigation of the Juvenile Protective Association and fined \$50 and costs. The Factory Inspection Department secured the conviction of Mrs. Wilson, mother of "Babe" Wilson, a Chicago child who has been on the stage in our neighborhood theatres since her sixth year. Owing to our activity in trying to secure evidence on which to base a prosecution, Mrs. Wilson took "Babe" out of school last year and enrolled her in the Junior Follies of 1916 company, which has been traveling the country ever since. Judging by letters which we have on file, the Junior Follies of 1916 company is no place in which to bring up a child. The Juvenile Protective Association has kept on the case and is gratified at the conviction reported above. It is the result—as far as we know—of the first prosecution under that clause of the Child Labor Law which holds parents liable for work done in violation of its rules by their children. A few convictions under this clause would, we believe, go far toward putting a stop to this serious kind of exploitation of children by their parents.

In the Heineman cases, the Factory Department having invited co-operation, the Juvenile Protective Association was able to offer its own attorney for the prosecution. The Heineman cases are the first serious attempt to enforce that clause of the Child Labor Law which forbids the employment of girls under sixteen at any process which compels them to stand constantly. Our Child Labor law is now about fourteen years old. It is time we learned whether vital parts of it, hitherto apparently considered too weak to use, or their use premature, can be legally made to work.

Street Trades.—Since its last annual report, the Juvenile Protective Association has recorded 507 street trades cases. These, again, fall into two groups: a small group of begging children (85), and a large group of children who peddle. Three hundred and seventy-seven of the latter sold newspapers. Probably the begging list would be longer and the peddling list not so long, if peddling were not often made a cloak for begging.

Begging.—Most of our begging children are not money beggars—they are the bag and basket children who invade the wholesale provision markets, and who may be found at night sidling into restaurants and bakeries, looking for damaged fruit, sick chickens, and stale bread. But while there are not many children who beg for money, the success of a few does little credit to the public intelligence. Arthur B— was brought into the Juvenile Protective Association office one Friday afternoon with \$9.83 which he had begged from loop business men. Investigation showed that Arthur had been absent from school 55 half days on Friday on the plea that he "had to get bread for his family." It also showed that the father is a young and able-bodied teamster

and that the grandmother owns two good houses, in one of which the B— family lives.

Peddling vs. Begging.—Next to Arthur B—, Katie K— is the most successful beggar on our records. Her case is one of those illustrating the close connection existing between begging and peddling. One snowy day Katie was found selling gum on Michigan Avenue. She offered each package with the sad tale that her father had been unemployed for five months and that there were five younger children at home. Investigation showed that the father had been injured in a work accident, but that he had returned to work and had received his full wages for the time of his absence—about \$400—three days before Katie stood on the corner peddling gum and her sad story. Several times she has been found peddling articles bought with money previously “asked from kind ladies.” Katie is a child of exceptional intelligence and charm, and it would pay the community to take good care of her. Instead, the public humors her begging adventures. But Mary P—, a pretty girl of twelve who has accompanied Katie on some of these ventures, was found recently in a department store with a suitcase full of stolen goods. It is perhaps a shorter step than we realize from the trickery of habitual begging to stealing.

Newsboys.—As our list of 377 news vendors includes 337 boys and only 40 girls, it will be seen that the problem here is almost entirely that of the newsboy. One hundred and thirty-seven of our 337 newsboy cases were found selling papers at night. Sixty-seven of these were found in the news alleys. Some of the latter “hustled” papers regularly until 1 and 2 A. M. Besides these, we have found little boys “hustling” papers at 8:30 and 9 P. M. who also sell papers every day after school and who sometimes put in 8 or 10 hours selling papers on Saturday. These children, ranging in age from 8 to 13 years, spend more of their time selling papers than they do in school. The present street trades laws permit boys under 14 to sell papers until 8 P. M. Over half the year, in Chicago, it is dark by 6 P. M. By 7 o'clock the streets are deserted. The older newsboys and standmen—like all other workers—have gone home to their evening meal. Only the small boy is left “tending stand,” a forlorn picture of exploited childhood. These small newsboys either get a very late supper at home, or they buy a meal at a lunch counter or get a saloon free lunch. Irregular eating and ill-chosen food are two of the bad conditions incident to the life of the young newsboy which undoubtedly have a deteriorating physical effect on the boy who habitually sells papers.

The boy who eats a late evening meal away from home is so far removed from parental control that his evening occupations and bedtime are left to his own discretion. Besides, the average newsboy has the added temptation of an unknown sum of money in his hands which he may spend for various amusements. Thus the boy who sells papers up to 8 P. M. becomes to a large extent the master of his time, his nourishment, his recreation and his whereabouts. With a child's judgment, he assumes in his own case the responsibilities of an adult. The results of this dangerous degree of freedom are reflected to some extent in the school and delinquency records of these children.

Effect of Selling Papers on School Work.—In 176 cases, the Juvenile Protective Association has inquired into the effect of selling papers on the school records of the children. Placing the benefit of every doubt to the credit of the child's school work, 81 of the 176 records secured were classed as satisfactory. Forty showed clearly that the child was below grade; 48 showed poor attend-

ance, 23 of these being listed as truants. Besides the 40 children found below grade, 37 showed poor scholarship in their grade, and 31 showed bad behavior, 5 of the latter being enrolled in rooms for incorrigibles. Two had been excluded from school as impossible to manage.

Newsboys as Delinquents.—Of our 337 newsboy cases, 15 already had Juvenile Court records for delinquency. Twenty-one more were runaways from home—a form of delinquency. In addition there were the 23 truants, 7 of whom—as runaways—were also delinquent. The other 16 truants, the boy found plating pennies in newsboys alley to pass on to his customers as nickels, and the two boys found “rolling a drunk”—i. e., picking the pockets of a man in a drunken stupor—while likely candidates for the delinquent list, are not included in our count. Without them the proportion of delinquents among the newsboys on our list is 12.7 per cent.

Why Newsboys?—This question is not intended to cover the reason for the sale of papers by minors in all cases, but—in view of the conditions dangerous to child life which the newsboy inevitably encounters—the persistence of widespread violation of the street trades laws enacted to decrease the number and activities of newsboys.

One reason is that the newsboy's occupation, *per se*, is not a serious disturbance of the public peace. Therefore, it does not disturb the police, who are charged with the enforcement of the laws regulating it. But the chief bar to enforcement seems to be the conviction that most of these boys come of very poor families and must be allowed to earn money in any way they can in order to keep themselves and their people from starving. It is essential, therefore, that the Juvenile Protective Association should emphasize the fact that in the great majority of cases there was no urgent need in the families of the boys found selling papers. The economic status of the family was investigated in 203 cases. In only 49 of these was family need justifiably the motive for the child's selling papers, as against 154 cases in which there was no family need. In one of the 49 needy cases the need was only temporary; in another case the need was far better relieved by securing a paying scholarship for the child in a trade school; in two others, the mother was assisted in getting a widow's pension; in three others, the boys might have had day jobs instead of selling papers at night. Five newsboys of needy families brought home only a few pennies a day. Four cases were referred to the Charities.

Most of the children selling papers do so because they have nothing else to do outside of school hours. Parents of many nationalities, who have admitted that they had no need of the money brought in, have insisted that the father's news stand served as a hitching post to which to tether the boy who would otherwise have run wild; while others have said that the responsibility of having a few papers to “hustle” would keep their boy from fighting and other mischief. The great majority of newsboys, even those whose families have no urgent need of their earnings, come from crowded neighborhoods containing many destructive and few constructive influences. This being the case, it seems only just, in connection with a plea for better enforcement of street trades regulations, and for more adequate regulations, to consider what must be done to insure better supervision of the boys' time when they shall be prevented from selling papers.

Constructive Influences.—Strongly suggestive of the solution to the problem of what to do with the newsboy outside of regular school hours, are

the 275 school buildings, which—in spite of social centers conducted in 36 of them during two evenings a week last winter—still stand idle the greater part of the time. Last winter a woman's club kept "open house" in one school building in a congested district from which many street trading children come. These children were kept busy, happy, and developing in a normal way, through the activities carried on in this school between the close of the regular period and the supper-hour, at a cost of two and one-third cents per child per day. The opening up of every public school in every congested district of the city is needed in order to give the newsboy a better alternative to working the streets than running the streets idle. Meanwhile, the public is urged to co-operate with the Juvenile Protective Association by reporting cases of apparent violation of the street trades law, in order that repeated demonstration of the needlessness and the harm of street trading for children may finally arouse the police department, the only agency really able to protect the children of the city from these evils.—Elsa Wertheim, in Fifteenth Annual Report of the Juvenile Protective Association of Chicago.

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

The War and Juvenile Delinquency.—In this JOURNAL of March, 1917, page 925, the following paragraph appeared:

"In comparing the three months ending February 29, 1916, with the corresponding period twelve months earlier, it was found that in London the number of juveniles charged with punishable offenses had increased from 1,304 to 2,005, in Liverpool from 578 to 702 and in Birmingham from 248 to 402. This return applied to children less than 16 years old. And the preceding year, 1915, also was an abnormal year of war, whose figures were above those for 1914.—*London Times*. Nov. 8, 1916."

That a similar situation exists in Canada is shown by the following statement from the Annual Report for 1916 on Dependent and Delinquent Children of the Province of Alberta¹:

"During the year 1916, 520 boys were tried in the Juvenile Courts of this Province for various offenses, some of them apparently trifling and some very serious. Youths frequently commit crimes against persons and property with a deliberation and a coolness hardly excelled by the habitual criminal. Our statistics show an increase of 25 per cent over the preceding year. In this connection it may be noted that the abnormal times in which we live have made more acute the problem of juvenile delinquency. * * * Reports to hand indicate that there have been increases in practically every part of the world. The causes for this may be summed up as follows: First, the decrease in parental control owing to the absence of so many fathers; second, the fact that many of the male teachers for whom the boys had the greatest respect, have joined the forces, and as a consequence little individual attention can be given; third, the spirit of adventure is in the air, children hear from their friends and relatives thrilling accounts of trench warfare and other excitements, and their love for imitation leads them into many offenses."

In the Cook County (Chicago) Juvenile Court there were 196 petitions for delinquent children filed May, 1916, and 303 in May, 1917.

The only reason that can be given for this large increase is the excitement

¹A. M. McDonald, Supt., Edmonton, Alberta.